Mysteries of Salineas and Hordak's Folly

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by lefemmerouge

Summary

The Gems, and their newfound friends, still journeying across Etheria, try to recruit Mermista for a final battle with the Horde. Their adventures in Salineas, filled with mystery and intrigue, lead to unexpected discoveries which threaten to pull them apart...

Notes

I have abbreviated Peridot as Peri apart from the first mention to make her more relatable.

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update: This story was revised and revamped in a cross-posted version on Squidge World, on 12/15/24, as "Mermista, the Mysterious Underwater Tomes, and Hordak's Folly." I revised the story with some syntax changes, improved the wording, italicized some phrases (as I do now), and the structure. I have updated the text this version to what I put on Squidge World, while keeping the original title.

See the end of the work for more notes

In no time at all, they had arrived at Salineas and were greeted by Mermista, a seventeen-year-old dark-skinned woman. She wore a teal suit with a gold collar, dark scales, golden bracelets, and gold-teal high-top shoes, her dark blue-green hair blowing in the wind, rolling in from the nearby sea. Sea Hawk was *nowhere to be seen*, likely in a nearby bar playing craps, arm wrestling, or some other game, with other seafaring folks. This disappointed Bow, because he had a *soft spot* for eighteen-year-old Sea Hawk, two years older than him, in his heart, and had looked forward to seeing him there. But he knew that Mermista wasn't a fan, finding Sea Hawk annoying and obnoxious, as both had a rocky relationship in the past.

While Mermista knew Bow, Glimmer, and Adora very well, she only vaguely recalled Amethyst, Pearl, and Garnet, when the Gems had "accidentally" come to Bright Moon a few days before, barging in on the war council meeting. She had no idea who Amazonite and Stevonnie were. As such, she turned to them, inquiring about their identities.

"So, who are you two supposed to be?...I mean, like, I never saw you before. Explain yourselves, this instant!"

Stevonnie explained that she was a Gem fusion of two beings, Steven and Connie. Amazonite echoed that sentiment, noting that Lapis and Peridot had fused together, creating the Gem fusion. This didn't abate Mermista's confusion. Before she could say more, a short girl, not even age 12, with black eyes, a three-pointed ice crown, a light blue jacket, a dark slate blue belt, fur-lined boots, and pale khaki pants *popped out* from behind a corner. This was Frosta, whose short cobalt blue hair shined in front of the Salineas castle walls. Akin to how Perfuma had acted when they met her in Plumeria, she greeted them gladly while Mermista grumbled about her "finding" the visitors. She wasn't used to Frosta in her immediate presence, although they were *becoming chummier* with each other.

Being logical, emotionally cool, and disliking small talk, she tried to lighten up the situation, away from Mermista's bewilderment, with one of her *classic puns*. While Bow, Glimmer, and Adora shook their heads, knowing what was coming, she decided to blurt out one anyway. She hoped to coax them into explaining why they had come to the kingdom in the first place. "Ice of you all to drop in!"

Glimmer explained that they had come to *specifically* ask for Mermista's help in a final push to defeat the Horde once and for all. She told them that even though the Princess Alliance had been *clearly* effective, the Gems would give them a new advantage over the Horde. Planting of listening devices on Catra, after the skirmish near the ruins of the Crystal Castle, increased the likelihood of engaging in s successful surprise attack.

Similar to Mermista, Frosta barely remembered the Gems and had never seen Stevonnie or Amazonite. This confused her since fusion didn't exist on Etheria. Sure, the princesses had magical powers which emanated from their runestones but they *could not* fuse together into more powerful beings. In that way, they shared nothing with the Gems, even though there were commonalities between them.

Since they were puzzled, Steven and Connie un-fused so they could explain *who* they were, and formally introduced themselves to Mermista and Frosta. This was helpful because neither

of these princesses had overheard what Garnet had told Netossa and Spinnerella about fusion on Bright Moon. Now, they understood fusion a *little* better and how it worked. Even so, they didn't know who or what Amazonite was, as they had never seen her before.

Just as Steven and Connie were about re-fuse, everyone was astonished by the unexpected un-fusing of Amazonite, revealing Lapis and Peri in *a tender embrace*. Peri's cheeks turned light green and Lapi's cheeks turned dark blue. They did not mean to come apart in front of everyone with their lips touching each other in a seductive French kiss. Steven loved witnessing such moments of true dedication and love between two people, especially among his friends.

"Aw! You are so cute together. You *are great* for each other."

Peri stumbled a little, hemming and hawing over what to say, with lots of "uhs" and "ums," so Lapis spoke on their behalf, attempting to explain their relationship. She framed it in such a way that they would all understand. Lapis hoped that since all the people they had met, besides Catra, in the same age cohort as Adora and age 15, were loving and caring of each other, that any doubt of their connection would be washed away.

"Peri is my *close friend* and we complement each other, from the TV shows we enjoy to meep morps, farming, and much more. She's always there for me. We admire each other...*what's wrong* with that?"

None of the Gems, although they were astounded by this affection, could counter Lapis's sound logic. Steven whispered to Frosta and Mermista, explaining to them what "meep morps" were, telling them it was what *they* called art, even though the reason why came up with such a term couldn't be determined. Mermista, tired of all this small talk, wanted some action. She wanted to see what this fusion could do.

"Fine, you can be together, like whatever. Like, what can your fusion do? I mean, water wing lady, you can control water, and you, greenish kid with a triangular-shaped head, can control metal objects, but...what can you do *together*?"

She challenged them to a contest to demonstrate how each of them could control the elements. As part of the rules, neither person would harm the other one in any way, shape, or form. As Steven and Connie silently fused back together, no one noticing but their fellow Gems, in full view of everyone, unafraid of what others thought, Lapis and Peri came together in a close embrace, intensely kissing each other. With their connection re-ignited, with a flash of light, they fused into Amazonite. With that, the contest began between Amazonite and Mermista.

Mermista, as an elemental princess, used her power, emanating from the small white pearl within her kingdom, to manipulate and control water around Salineas. She created a huge tidal wave that came in and hit the Salineas Sea-Gate. It had no effect on this powerful magical barrier. It's water barely touched them. It was Amazonite's turn. She flapped her turquoise water wings in excitement.

She could levitate and control metallic or water-composed beings, whether completely or partly composed of water, project her memories on mirrored surfaces, and change water's

state of matter. Amazonite focused her energy on the body of water around Salineas, turning some water into steam and then into a rain cloud. She then turned the rain cloud into a mini-thunderstorm that erupted over Salineas, with lightning strikes hitting everywhere. Jokingly, she declared to Mermista, impressed by this show of skills, who couldn't engage in such a feat: "Feel the wrath of Amazonite...*the conjurer* of water, lightning, and thunder!"

While Frosta watched in amazement, she challenged Amazonite, feeling she could best this Gem fusion. She had the power to manipulate, shape, and create ice thanks to her connection to the Fractal Flake, making her one of the many elemental princesses on Etheria. Coming into Amazonite's personal space, only inches away from her face, she continued her brazen remarks.

"What an impressive display, but it's *no match* for my ability to create ice weapons and armor! I'll show you!"

Using her powers, she proceeded to freeze the nearby bay, turning it into a big ice rink, navigating across the slippery surface with self-created ice snowshoes. They were a bit cold but not as cold as the suit of armor she made for herself in a previous battle.

Amazonite would have none of this. She conjured a mini-thunderstorm. The electricity from the storm electrified the ice, just as electricity moves through a conductive state of matter (like water). She also made ice clones of Frosta, showing that her ability to manipulate water included creating copies of other beings. Jumping back from the frozen bay, Frosta *barely* avoided being electrocuted. If she had been, then Amazonite's attempt to connect with new friends would have been a *tragic failure*. To destroy the ice copies, Stevonnie produced a resonance from their shield making them dissipate into nothing, similar to what Steven had done with Lapis, after stealing part of the Atlantic Ocean in a vain effort to reach Homeworld, attempted to kill his friends. At the same time, the electricity from Amazonite's thunderstorm produced heat which began melting the ice, even though the bay remained charged with electric current.

Luckily for everyone, Mermista had a solution. She summoned a huge tidal wave into the bay so that the electric charge could be dissipated, turning the bay from an electrically charged death trap into a safely navigable one. At the end of this display, with her dark blue-green hair blowing in the breeze, she smirked. She snarkily addressed Frosta and Amazonite.

"That was so much work...to clean up that mess you both created...But I handled it, urrrgh! It's just...*annoying*."

None of them wanted to overstay their welcome, especially not Adora, Bow, or Glimmer. Even with the situation becoming emotionally charged, Mermista knew they wouldn't leave anytime soon. She remembered what Glimmer had told her about a near-death experience in the small civilian town of Thaymor, near the Whispering Woods: Adora loved horses. That gave her an idea, although it would be a *bit inconvenient* to execute since she would have to transform herself into a mermaid in order to effectively navigate through the ocean.

Trying to be cool and casual, she turned to Adora. After all, she was the princess of the oceans, who had dubbed herself "Sea-Ra," and could use a trident in the heat of battle. She

hoped that her gesture would make Adora, at least age 16, feel better. "Adora, I heard you *adore* horses. I could show you seahorses if you want. If not, whatever."

Her eyes *filled* with wonder. It was just like what had happened when she met "horsey", whom she accidentally transformed into Swift Wind with her magical sword. She was excited to meet these new "horses," as Mermista described them. "SEA HORSES! Mermista, I would love to see them! Can you show me?"

Mermista rolled her eyes. She told her that these horses were under the water and since Adora had no gills, it would be *tough* to get there. She agreed to show her these beings because she respected her as a fighter and as one of the friendliest princesses on the planet. Glimmer and Bow grumbled, asking each other in hushed tones if Adora would be disappointed when she found out that sea horses weren't horses. Bow laughed at the prospect of that happening.

Stevonnie could go underwater with a bubble while Amazonite also could, thanks to her fusion with Lapis. Garnet was also a very good swimmer and could somehow spend a long time beneath water as well. However, it seemed unlikely that Pearl, Frosta, Adora, Bow, or Glimmer could be underwater for a long period of time. Just as Mermista readied herself to jump into the water, changing her legs into a mermaid tail, Bow uncovered something unusual: a metal covering of some kind. Using her whip, Amethyst opened it. A light shined on the extraordinary discovery: a see-through underwater passageway. Mermista didn't *need* to travel underwater. But, since the sea horses were far out in the ocean, living among a beautiful coral reef, she would rather swim than walk the whole way.

"Why didn't anyone tell me about this before? What other secrets have been *hidden* from me? Like, I'm not walking all the way down that tunnel to get to the sea horses. I'll follow from the outside while you go down the creepy tunnel...I'll lead you there, *ugh*."

Everyone else, but Amazonite and Mermista, got into the tunnel, which continued along the ocean floor. Adora feasted her eyes on the sights around them. The rest of the group was also impressed, but not as much. After an hour or so, they reached the sea horse breeding ground around the coral reef in the ocean's temperate waters. Mermista pointed up at the sea horses and held one in her hand. Adora stared at it lovingly through the clear tunnel, with her puppy dog eyes. She became more entranced when she saw hundreds more swimming around the tunnel itself!

She hugged Pearl and pointed up at them: "Aren't those pretty?" Pearl smiled, uttering, "Yes, they are" and hugged Adora *back* in a warm embrace.

As they walked back, through the tunnel, to the shore of Salineas, Frosta saw a big red button on the tunnel wall. Due to her impulsiveness, recklessness, and curiosity, she decided to press it, not caring what would happen to anyone else. Suddenly, a hole appeared in the bottom of the tunnel, sucking everyone into a dark passageway, speeding down like they were all a very slippery slide or a fast rollercoaster. Some, such as Stevonnie, enjoyed this a lot more than others. Mermista and Amazonite watched *in horror*. They had no idea where anyone had gone. Although she was concerned, Mermista decided to swim back to shore because she wanted no part in "this," due to the effort involved. Amazonite, on the other hand, would not give up and continued to search through the ocean in hopes of finding them.

Frosta, Garnet, Pearl, Adora, Stevonnie, Amethyst, Bow, and Glimmer were thrown out of the tunnel into a huge underwater chamber. At first, it seemed to be an abandoned First One ruin. This perception quickly dissipated since Gem technology was embedded, piquing the interest of Pearl, Amethyst, Garnet, and Stevonnie. One thing was clear: to find the true meaning of this place, the Gems and princesses *needed* to combine their powers. While Glimmer offered her help, Bow recommended she save her strength since they were far from Bright Moon where she could recharge, using the Moonstone. That left only two people" Adora and Pearl. Frosta didn't have a personal connection with any of the Gems. Two slots could be seen: one for the Sword of Protection and another for any gem weapon, such as the pearlescent spear that Pearl carried. Each put their weapons into the designated slots. A static hologram began playing, with Rose and Maura speaking in unison, alarming everyone:

> *"Hello. If you have come here searching for answers, then you have come to the right place. This is the underwater Salineas archive. It was hidden for thousands of years because we didn't want the people of Etheria to know a deep, dark secret: Earth and Etheria are interconnected. The energy flow from one planet created a passageway to the other, allowing a connection between our distant worlds. With that, we wish you the best of luck on your quest for knowledge."*

The recording came to an end. Suddenly, glowing records and control panels revealed themselves, while the tunnel, they had traveled through, closed above their heads. They were stuck in this place, giving them the perfect opportunity to find out about the past. Adora walked to an open keyboard, typing in "ADORA," and pressed enter. No results came up. Frustrated, she proceeded to type in "SHE-RA." A picture appeared and videos began playing on other screens which covered the walls of this underwater cavern. A mechanical voice rang out, comparable to Light Hope's voice. This voice constituted a manifestation of the M.A.R.A. system that Bow's dads had discussed with Samurai Jack, Bow, and Glimmer, although Adora didn't know that was the case.

"She-Ra is the defender of Etheria. The sword of protection was created with an engraved runestone, specifically for a designated person of Eternia, to be used to *protect* Etheria, restoring balance and order."

Frustrated, she let others give it a try. Pearl walked over to the keyboard, then typed the words "LIGHT HOPE." Again, a mechanical voice blared, noting something fascinating: Light Hope served as only one manifestation of a larger computer system. This intrigued Adora as it could mean that Light Hope could be regenerated, even though the Crystal Castle has collapsed. She continued typing, inputting the words "PINK DIAMOND." What came up astounded all of them, especially Pearl. A video began playing on all the screens and a holographic projection, demonstrating the features of Gem colony on the planet, resembling the horrifying plans for an Earth colony that Peri showed the Crystal Gems on the Moon Base, appeared. "As Pink Diamond, I see *tremendous potential* in this planet as a colony. Blue and Yellow will be so impressed when they see this place. Surely they *will respect me* even more..."

The recording cut off. Clearly, someone had taped over it. A new message began playing. In some ways, it seemed that Maura, clearly tired, worn out, and determined, who voiced the message was standing before them. What she declared shocked everyone.

"I have discovered that my friend, Pink, otherwise known as Rose, wanted to destroy this planet, turning it into her own personal colony...to impress the Diamonds. I have no choice but to move this planet into another dimension so the energy link with Earth can be broken. I have reason to believe that the Horde is working with the Diamonds to subjugate this planet. I cannot let that happen...if you are hearing this message I succeeded and Etheria is safe."

The message made Pearl speechless. She had *no idea* that Pink wanted to turn Etheria into a colony to "impress the Diamonds," as Pink had never expressed that sentiment to her what she could remember. Adora was fuming, readying her sword to become She-Ra. As she was about to charge, Pearl calmed her down. Amethyst, Garnet, and Stevonnie helped, reminding her that Pink had changed since then. Not only did Pink permanently change her form to Rose Quartz, leading a war against herself, but she inspired many to fight alongside her. Amethyst then said that Maura must have been "deranged" to move the whole solar system, especially since the Horde hadn't left Etheria, meaning the planet had *not* become "safe." Adora heard their pleas and softly told them, "yeah, you are right. I can't change the past but I can change the future...by *defeating* the Horde!"

Their time in the underwater archive seemed to be at an end. Adora retrieved her sword out of the slot, as did Pearl with her spear. However, due to the fact they didn't take them out at the same time, it caused an internal error. A cold automated voice could be heard reverberating across the room. This message echoed what Adora had heard in the Crystal Castle, or what Bow, Glimmer, and Adora had heard in the Crimson Waste along with Samurai Jack.

"Unauthorized access detected. Beginning self-destruct sequence. Opening all hatches and doors. Have a nice day!"

While no one felt that they would have a "nice day," Stevonnie *chuckled* at this humor, although no one guessed the pop culture reference, a movie that had brought together Rose and Greg even closer together. As the floor gave way, everyone fell toward the rushing river below. Almost as if she could see into the future, knowing they were going to fall, all of them landed on Amazonite's back, who began to fly them out through the pipes. She had explored them in an attempt to find where they were. She would have broken into the underwater archive had they not unintentionally triggered a process that would destroy this valuable repository of knowledge.

To lessen the burden on Amazonite, Amethyst turned herself into an eagle. She carried Stevonnie, Pearl, and Adora. The rest of them rode on the back of Amazonite. The disappearance of this archive *deeply concerned* Stevonnie. They were sad to see such knowledge disappear in the blink of an eye and *hoped* that the information was available in another place. Little did they know, but Bow, thinking ahead, had saved copies of the archival recordings, database, and records, on a flash drive, while also copying it to his tracker pad. No one really noticed his actions because they were so focused on what the computer system was telling them.

Zooming out of the tunnel, they escaped just in time to the shore of Salineas and were greeted by Mermista. They could see a huge explosion in the distance, obviously the underwater

archive. The resulting tidal wave moving quickly toward Salineas. Rolling her eyes at the fact she had to deal with yet another *annoyance*, Mermista reversed the wave's direction, moving it away from the beach where they were recovering from a harrowing journey.

Bow's tracker pad began to hum with static, almost like an act of magic. This puzzled everyone but Bow, and Peri, still fused with Lapis. They knew what this meant. While there wasn't reception under the ocean, on land, recordings from Catra in the Fright Zone could easily come in. Due to the fact they had been under the ocean for a prolonged period, the messages were stored up, coming in one by one. Everyone raised their ears at one recording in particular:

"Hordak *doesn't* respect me anymore, he just cares about that techy princess, Entrapta, and building that portal. It's time for a change in leadership. I need to be the leader of the Horde, not Hordak. Then I can rule Etheria once and for all. Adora will pay for what she did to me...*they all will pay!*"

In later messages, Catra talked about the Horde amassing its armies around the Fright Zone in preparation for a massive offensive. While she hoped to head this effort, she admitted this wouldn't occur because Hordak didn't trust her.

What Catra had in store gave Adora an idea. They would instigate an attack on the Fright Zone with...its own troops! Amethyst would shapeshift into Catra, leading a coup d'etat against Hordak. This could only happen if the real Catra could be captured, knocked out, and detained. While such an idea seemed *far-fetched*, it could work if all they all worked together!

In order for this plan to work, they needed to recruit Netossa and Spinnerella in Bright Moon and Perfuma in her gorgeous kingdom, Plumeria. The success of this bold move would show that the light of the world could triumph over the ever-encroaching darkness.

Without much delay, Amethyst transformed herself into a helicopter, carrying Adora, Pearl, Stevonnie, Glimmer, and Bow to Bright Moon. The others rode on the back of Amazonite, who could handle the extra weight thanks to her fusion. Stevonnie tried to ask about the underwater archive, but since the helicopter sped forward at an extreme speed, *no one* else heard them. They resolved to mention it later since the information in that underwater archive could be vital to the people of Earth and Etheria.

Soon, they arrived at the Bright Moon castle. Angella must have not heard them because she was enthralled with reading books and manuscripts within her private library. Instead, they were greeted by Spinnerella and Netossa. Adora cheerfully asked them a question of genuine importance.

"Will you join us on our quest to defeat Hordak, that *50-year-old bag of bones*, restoring balance to this planet?"

Enthusiastically, Spinnerella and Netossa accepted. Amethyst turned herself back into a helicopter, a tiring fusion to hold for such a long time, and Amazonite carried the rest of them. Thanks to her ability to control wind and air, coupled with the ability to create cyclones

while spinning, Netossa and Spinnerella were able to move forward without the help of the Gems or other princesses. To join in the fun, Stevonnie twirled around the cyclone with both of them, joined by Mermista, who continued to have a nonchalant attitude toward *everything*.

Their final stop was Plumeria. They unintentionally startled Perfuma, only age 17 and in the same age cohort as Glimmer, Bow, and Adora. She didn't expect them to come, meaning she had nothing prepared for them. Stepping out of the helicopter, Adora approached Perfuma, imploring her to join them in an effort to strike a decisive blow against the Horde. She chirped and excitedly told Adora she would help.

"I will do *anything* for the She-Ra. I knew this world would right itself one day and...now we have the chance to do that!"

As they positioned themselves, Glimmer and Adora began the first part of their plan: kidnapping Catra. They arrived at the Fright Zone at the right time, nightfall, meaning that she had started falling asleep. They could easily teleport in, capture her, and then knock her out. Bow would stay behind since it would be too difficult for her to transport more than three people. After all, as a 15-year-old, she was still inexperienced at using her magical powers. As they approached Catra's bed, Adora and Glimmer could see her eye observing them but did not experience *much* resistance.

Adora and Glimmer teleported Catra outside the Fright Zone's walls with no one detecting their presence. The fact that Entrapta didn't pick up their magical signatures, on her computer, *had been a miracle*. It was a happy coincidence she had been in a deep sleep. She needed rest, especially since she had an older age than many of the princesses, who were in their teens, having lived and breathed for 30 years on the planet. Standing outside the Fright Zone, Adora whispered to Frosta that they needed to create a cage for Catra, in order to temporarily hold her. Frosta complied with that request, building an ice cage while Netossa threw an electrified net on top, making it hard to escape.

Grinning *almost devilishly*, Adora approached Catra. "It's such a delight to see you in a cage, like *the animal you are*. It's time for you and the Horde to pay the price for what they have done to this planet. We will be free from the awful tyranny, once and for all."

Catra hissed and seemed ready to bust out of the cage. Adora doubted this would happen. She could tell Catra was disoriented and groggy because she had woken up only a few minutes before. This meant that knocking out Catra with a small hammer, one of the forms of the Sword of Protection, measured among one of the easiest tasks. Her unconscious state would serve *their purposes*, allowing their plan to proceed.

While they could wait until morning to execute the next stage, it would be too late, meaning that the possibility of failure would rise. They needed to strike decisively. As per the plan, Amethyst transformed herself into Catra and walked in front of the Horde tanks. Although the soldiers of the Horde were skilled fighters, they weren't the brightest bulbs in the box. She announced that Hordak, their leader, had become a traitor to the Horde by allying himself with a princess, meaning it was time to restore balance (and order) to the Fright Zone. *Somehow*, the Horde soldiers bought this argument and readied their tanks.

Soon enough, the blasts from the tanks hit the Fright Zone's structure, as they continued to vent their anger at Hordak's betrayal, wanting to destroy everything in their path, causing the structure to crumble. While Bow and Glimmer stayed to guard the prisoner, Catra, the others could sneak inside since the Horde soldiers were preoccupied. With explosions rocking the structure, this disturbed Hordak. He wondered what in the world was going on.

Lonnie, Kyle, and Rogelio, all of whom were teens like Catra, Bow, Glimmer, and Adora, had been awakened by the commotion. Scorpia surveyed the area, searching for her "wildcat" but couldn't find her, although she observed Horde soldiers rushing through the Fright Zone at a fast rate of speed.

Although their attack had debilitated him, he turned around toward them and began to charge at them. They *only* wanted to stun and capture him, a condition they agreed to so that Stevonnie could join them. It was too late for Hordak. Seeing their dead comrades strewn across the floor, another legion of Horde soldiers, who raised their guns and opened fire. Their laser bolts struck him across the body, on the back once again, causing him to fall to the ground. Croaking, he breathed one last gulp of fresh air. His death, from their laser bolts, meant he had been killed not by the princesses he had sought to eliminate but *by the Horde soldiers* who had been trained to carry out his bidding!

As the smoke cleared, a legion of Horde soldiers approached them, reading their blasters. Lonnie, Kyle, and Rogellio led the group, resolute in *their determination* to restore order and balance to the Fright Zone. The soldiers radioed down to "Catra." They reported to her that Hordak had been killed, but that they had encountered a group of rebels, and asked how they should proceed. Amethyst, in her form as Catra, did not know what to tell them. Luckily, she never had to utter a word because Mermista covered the Horde soldiers, Lonnie, Kyle, and Rogellio, with a tidal wave of sewer water.

While Frosta proceeded to freeze them in place, Stevonnie protected them all with their pink shield, blocking the laser bolts fired from the guns of the Horde soldiers. The lasers stopped coming when the Horde soldiers, and their comrades, were frozen in place. They were then picked up by Amazonite who threw them outside the Fright Zone walls, falling hundreds of stories, leading to extreme injury or perhaps even death. This display of utter violence shocked Stevonnie, almost leading Steven and Connie to unfuse, although they stayed together despite these disturbing events.

With Hordak gone, there remained two obstacles to their plan: Entrapta, with her command of technology, and Scorpia. The latter could cause their whole plan to fall apart. Dedicated to her friend, she had run through the Fright Zone. Exiting the deteriorated structure, she found Catra trapped within a prison of ice, surrounded by an electrified net, protected by Glimmer and Bow, believing she could take them on. She shouted, "I'm coming, wildcat!" Hearing that, Amethyst jumped inside a Horde tank, aiming it at Scorpia. As she ran toward Catra, with Bow and Glimmer at the ready, Amethyst aimed and fired a projectile from the Horde tank. Not expecting this, the projectile hit her straight in the back. Unlike Hordak, who was killed by laser bolts, her scales were tremendously strong, meaning that the blast only stunned her *temporarily.*

That left Entrapta, who had woken up. She was ready to face the princesses and the Gems, the latter who she had never seen before. They felt she could help them in the final stage of their plan: wipe the Fright Zone from existence, eliminating all traces from the planet itself. Preparing to attack them with her prehensile hair, Adora stunned her with a regulation stun gun which she had taken from a Horde soldier, who had been killed by Hordak. Although she was in a daze, she could hear Pearl and Adora utter a few stern words, "Entrapta...it's time to talk," while the others surrounded her in a semi-circle. The time for reckoning was at hand...

End Notes

The pages on Mermista, Spinnerella, Thaymor, Salineas, The Pearl, and Frosta on the She-Ra fandom were helpful as was the Moon Base page on the Steven Universe fandom. Since I'm not the best with detecting sarcasm, socially, articles like Kristina Adams's "How to Write Sarcasm," posts on WritingForums, the /r/writing subreddit, Stella's "Fiction Focus- Sarcastic Characters," K.M. Weiland's "How to Write Funny Dialogue (What I Learned Writing Storming)," and Robert Wood's "Writing Funny Characters That Actually Make People Laugh." TvTropes and help-i-need-a-cool-username.tumblr.com (for the post on "headcannon," characters ages) was also helpful as well. The dialogue about seahorses was inspired by a post on a-dauntless-daffodil.tumblr.com. I rated this a little higher than my other ones because of violence in the last half! It isn't explicit in that there's no blood spurting anywhere, but someone is killed and other people are thrown off a building onto the ground, very injured. And there's a lot of fighting in that part.

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!